

Discovery Programme 2018-2019

The **Discovery Programme** in Forum for Language Initiatives is a diploma level programme consists of four two-week interactive courses stretching over one year. Each Course is followed by a practical field assignment in the language community. It is designed to equip learners with skills to discover and document some of the basic features of their own languages and cultures.

Minimum qualifications

1. **Community involvement:** The applicant of the programme must be either already actively involved in a language development project or is seriously considered for such a project. Other members of the language community must be supportive to his work or plans. For this reason, we require a letter of recommendation from a language project or a local language/cultural society.
2. **Mentorship:** The trainee should be willing to work closely with a mentor, a person trained and experienced in language/culture documentation or research and who is willing to meet regularly throughout the training programme and help the trainee develop relevant skills and attitudes. No applicants will be accepted without first assuring that a mentor has expressed his or her commitment.
3. **Language skills:** The trainee must have a good command of written and spoken Urdu & English
4. **Education:** Minimum, intermediate (FA) but higher educated person will be preferable.

Purpose of the Discovery Programme

The purpose of the Discovery Programme is to equip language workers with the basic skills and attitudes needed to begin a language development project. Throughout the programme, the trainees will “discover” some of the basic building blocks of language and learn **how to document and study the sound system, the grammar and the culture** of one’s language community, skills that are **foundational** to all other language-based development work.

FLI strives to develop teams of workers in each of the language communities it serves so that they can share the load and responsibility for this important work and provide support to each other. The results of this strategy will be very beneficial for the community. For this reason, FLI gives priority to language projects that sponsor 2-4 individuals to participate in this training together.

Course set

The Discovery Programme consists of the following 2-week courses:

1. *How to start a language and culture documentation project.*
2. *How to organize and analyze my language data.*
3. *Discovering my culture.*
4. *Discovering the structure of my language.*

More details regarding the goals and objectives of each of these courses will be sent out later to applicants.

The participants are recommended to complete the whole course set to get their training completed and well rounded. However, we, at FLI understand that due to other commitments and work-related limitations, many of you may not be able to participate in the entire programme. In this case, we invite those people to apply for the course(s) in which they are most interested and are able to attend all its sessions. We will do our best to accommodate them, but **we will prefer those intending to complete the full programme.**

Field projects

Field projects are the most important part of the courses. The purpose for conducting a field project following each 2-week class session is to provide an opportunity for the trainee to apply and to hone his newly developed skills and for the mentor and training staff to evaluate his ability to apply these skills.

For each course, applicants need to submit a brief description of a proposed field project. Applicants should draft this proposal only after consulting their mentor. Details can be finalized during the course, but trainees should come to each course with a good idea of what they are planning to work on as a project. In connection with some of the courses, the FLI training staff will provide more detailed suggestions and/or requirements for those field projects. Participants should keep the following points in mind when developing each field project proposal:

- ✓ Participants should prepare the proposal in consultation with other members of their community, working closely with their mentor.
- ✓ The project should provide a practical application of their newly developed skills. In other words, they are expected to do some research in a relevant area related to the course topic. It should not be “busy work”—work just for the sake of work.
- ✓ Trainees from the same language can work together on the same project. However, they must share the burden of work evenly.
- ✓ There are no exams during the course sets. Instead the trainees will carry out field projects following each course, and this will be the basis on which his learning and skills will be assessed.
- ✓ Trainees must complete each field project by the beginning of the subsequent course. *A timetable must be agreed upon with your mentor that includes time for the necessary reviews and revisions.*
- ✓ Evaluation will be carried out by: the trainee’s mentor, the FLI staff and the course instructor.

In order to develop the skills that will be taught in these courses, it is best if the trainee is able to plan to invest a significant amount of time working on each field project. Ideally, the written results of the project should reflect the equivalent of 6 weeks fulltime work following each course. However, if there are work, family or personal constraints in spending this much time on the project, a less ambitious project can be planned. However, it should be stated that setting aside a very small portion of time to work on a project (say for example, the equivalent of 3-4 fulltime days after each course) will not provide sufficient opportunity for the trainee to develop new skills, which is the primary objective of these courses.

Course fees

The fee for each 2-week course is will be payable to the FLI administration on or before the **first day** of each course. Training fee including non-residential RS:12000 two weeks and residential RS: 26000 per-person for two weeks would be charged.

Application requirements

Two documents along with the application form, attached at the end of this document, should be submitted to the FLI office before suggested time. Confirmation of Acceptance letters will be mailed from the FLI. Please submit these two documents with your application.

1. Letter of recommendation and support from a community-based language and culture society.
 - a. This letter should include a statement of support or recommendation for the work that the applicant has been doing and plans to do after attending the course(s).
 - b. It should also contain at least the following points:
 - i. The applicant's relationship to the language and culture society (those writing the letter should not be close relatives)
 - ii. An assessment of how well he/she thinks the applicant will complete the requirements of the Discovery Programme (or the course(s) for which he is enrolling)
 - iii. A statement that confirms the applicant's commitment to language-related concerns
 - iv. An explanation regarding how this training will help the community. For example, answer a question like, "How will the applicant apply the knowledge and skills gained in the course(s) in order to benefit his own language community?"

2. A short essay (1-2 pages) written by the applicant describing a proposed language/culture documentation or development project in the applicant's community, or his particular involvement in an ongoing project:
 - a. This brief essay should address a particular need to be met with the help of this programme, or a problem that you want to study and find a solution to in your language.
 - b. In addition to defining the problem or the particular need, also include an explanation of some of the methods you will use and how you envision this project will be carried out practically.
 - c. Finally, state the goals you hope to reach with the work described under (a) and how you think it will benefit your community.

Additional questions to be answered in the essay:

- Describe your past and present language development activities, if any
- Describe additional needs you see in your community with regard to language and culture documentation/development
- Describe what your expectations for this programme are

Limitations

Due to the limitations of space, and because smaller groups are more conducive for effective learning environments, we limit the total number of participants to 12.

Certification

FLI will issue a diploma to those individuals who complete all 4 courses in the time allotted and demonstrate in their field projects that they have developed new skills in these areas. A special ceremony will be held at FLI on a later date for the distribution of these diplomas.

Further training

More advanced training in the following areas will be provided by FLI. Those who complete this entry-level Discovery programme will be eligible to participate in one or more of these training tracks.

- Making Dictionaries
- Multilingual Education
- Cultural studies
- Translation

- Orthography

Thank you very much for your interest in language documentation.

Note: In the training educational institutes such as Universities and other governmental institutes and community-based language researchers can benefit.

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